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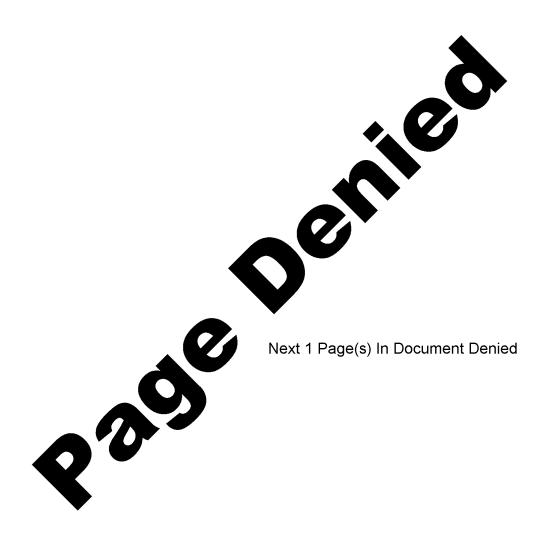
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WESTERN EUROPE - CANADA - INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Western Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Italian Military Concerned Over Unrest in Enlisted Ranks

Senior Italian military leaders are concerned about recent signs of unrest among enlisted men and non-commissioned officers. It appears, however, that little will be done anytime soon to correct the problems that have led to the discontent, and that the Communist Party may be benefitting from the situation.

Over the past few years, there has been increasing evidence of discontent in the enlisted ranks, but until now the defense ministry leadership has tended to portray it as the work of a few malcontents or extremist agitators. Several incidents within the past few weeks suggest, however, that there is widespread dissatisfaction with low pay, slow promotions, and the country's out-ofdate military code. In violation of military regulations, air force NCOs have staged public demonstrations in Rome to protest the erosion of their pay and allowances by the 25 percent jump in the cost of living there during the The arrest of one of them led last year. another group of NCOs to issue a communique supporting him and promising further "agitation."

Discontent among enlisted men in the navy was dramatized last month when a high-ranking officer, who sympathized with their grievances, resigned to protest the refusal of his superior to authorize certain improvements. In the army, a few members of one elite unit were arrested recently, apparently for organizing protest in their division.

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In contacts with US embassy officers, the chiefs of staff of the three services have expressed concern about the deterioration of morale and discipline. The service chiefs recognize the need to improve conditions for enlisted men, but they complain bitterly about the lack of understanding and support from political leaders. Prodded by the service chiefs, Defense Minister Forlani has begun to move on the matter, but the sluggish manner in which parliament acts probably means that nothing will be done for a year or two, if at all.

In the meantime, the heads of the services are taking limited action on their own.

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Air Force chief

Ciarlo, meanwhile, is encouraging his NCOs to form an organization to present the enlisted men's grievances. He hopes to undercut support for unions within the military.

The Communist Party, which advocates unions for both the military and police, may benefit politically from the situation. All of the Italian parties have traditionally neglected the military, but the Communists in recent years have mounted a characteristically well-organized campaign to capitalize on military discontent. They have championed the enlisted man's cause and have gone so far as to set up "defense committees" in various areas to gather information of the financial and social status of military personnel. The data is used to help formulate legislative proposals designed to appeal to the military.

The results of the mid-June regional and local elections suggest that the Communist strategy may be paying off. The Communist vote rose markedly, for example, in some areas where most of the electorate consists of military and security personnel.

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Stirrings of Anti-Americanism in Turkey

Small groups of radical leftists plan to organize anti-US and anti-NATO demonstrations this weekend in the Turkish cities of Izmir, Ankara, and Istanbul. The leftists are seeking to create the impression there is widespread anti-US sentiment in Turkey, and hope further to irritate US-Turkish relations. Turkish authorities have already deployed combat units to Ankara in anticipation of either planned or spontaneous anti-American protests.

Leftist political parties and unions now have more room to maneuver since martial law--imposed last year during the Cyprus war--was terminated earlier this month. Currently, the most active group is the Turkish Revolutionary People's Workers and Peasants Party. The party is small and has outlawed since 1971, but it remains one of the best organized revolutionary groups in Turkey. It has a history of violent activities, and reportedly controls and directs several other radical leftist groups that were involved in the recent student unrest and political violence in Turkey.

Twenty-six members of the Revolutionary Party were arrested after they occupied the US Exchange Retail Store at Izmir on August 7. The group claimed they were "liberating a Turkish owned building occupied by the imperialists." This was the largest anti-US incident involving the Turkish populace since the arms embargo was imposed.

In general, the Turkish population has reacted mildly to the suspension of US aid. That situation could change during the partial senatorial election campaign in October. The status of US bases in Turkey is likely to be a key issue for political debate, which in Turkey often becomes violent. Opposition leaders have already attacked the Demirel government for what they consider to be a weak response to the continuing suspension of US aid.

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France to Oppose NATO Leadership in Implementation of CSCE Agreement

France will oppose any move to give NATO a major role in overseeing implementation of the agreement signed at the European security conference summit in Helsinki last month.

A high official of the French foreign ministry told US Embassy officers that France believes the multilateral phase of CSCE is over. Paris does not see an active role for either NATO or the EC in security conference follow-up activities. The official did acknowledge that NATO might be useful as a forum of exchanging information concerning progress made in bilateral exchanges. He also conceded that the UN Economic Commission for Europe as well as UNESCO might play a limited role.

French policy will focus, however, on traditional bilateral diplomacy and this theme will be stressed during President Giscard's visit to Moscow in October. The French position is that each country should be free to concentrate on those issues most relevant to its own interests.

On security matters, for example, Paris expects Moscow to campaign now for disarmament in Europe. France will continue to resist any moves that it believes may threaten the maintainence of adequate defenses in Western Europe. In particular, Paris is concerned about the force reduction talks in Vienna.

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The French retain the Gaullist wariness of committing themselves to multilateral organizations and remain particularly suspicious of NATO. France has, moreover, consistently avoided ventures that could be labeled "bloc confrontations," and would see any NATO domination of the Helsinki follow-up in that light.

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